

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/527,276
Reply to Office Action dated July 6, 2006

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REMARKS

In the subject Action, claims 1-10 were rejected. Claims 1-10 remain pending in the present application. In light of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the pending rejections and advancement of this application to allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Croser* (AU-A-43434/85). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, among other things, a dual actuation button assembly including a single spring adapted to apply a force to both of the button members. The spring is adapted to maintain some force on one of the button members during actuating movement of the other of the button members.

In contrast, *Croser* fails to disclose or suggest that the spring is adapted to maintain some force on one of the button members during actuating movement of the other of the button members. In particular, *Croser* discloses that “[a] spring (or springs) 67 functions to return both parts of the push button when not depressed.” (emphasis added) *See, e.g.*, page 12, ll. 3-5; Fig. 4. In other words, *Croser* contains no disclosure that the spring 67 shown in Fig. 4 is capable of maintaining some force on one of the button members during actuation movement of the other of the button members as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Actually, the spring 67 shown in Fig. 4 in *Croser* has a relatively small width and a relatively large height. The inner surfaces of the spring are restrained from inward movement as they are closely positioned around the members 58 and 60. As a result, when one of the buttons 56 or 57 is depressed, the entire upper end of the spring will be depressed to the point that the upwards force on the other of the buttons will be lost. Therefore, the spring in *Croser* fails to maintain some force on one of the button members during actuating movement of the other of the button members. It is thus submitted, for at least the reasons noted, that claim 1 is patentable.

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Claim 2-9 are dependent claims and so are also believed to be allowable over the art of record. Applicant does not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserves the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

This response is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the currently pending claims. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at 612.336.4755 to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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